

INFORMAL

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Morale and General Conditions in the Army

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
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1. The army is not popular in Poland and the general feeling is that there is no true Polish Army. It is numerically weak and its armament and technical training are poor. The attitude of the people towards temporary officers and men is one of indifference, but regular officers, particularly senior officers, are despised. As a result, regular officers avoid social intercourse and keep to their own circles.
2. The army is definitely a political force. There is an enormous difference between Berling's and Zymierski's officers (so-called "Kosciuszkowcy"). The first group look down on the rest and enjoy considerable unofficial privilege. There is a shortage of specialist officers, instructors, and particularly NCOs.
3. Organization and training are based on the Soviet system. Manuals are translations of Soviet books. Political instructors exist only in battalions and higher, but all officers must have political talks with the men along the lines of the government's program. Training with live ammunition is impossible because of the shortage of ammunition. Mobilization supplies have only sufficient ammunition for three hours of a full day's consumption. Training of junior officers is at a very low level. Candidates for entry into twelve months' schools for officers must have passed the sixth grade.
4. Commanders of units and formations from regimental level upwards are almost exclusively Poles from the USSR or Russians. This is particularly evident in Western Poland in the newly annexed territory.
5. Pay is inadequate. A second lieutenant gets 10,000 to 11,000 zlotys a month. Appointments in the army do not necessarily correspond to the rank held.

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